

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, JA, KS, UR
SUBJECT: JAPAN-USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 032660

SUMMARY: THOUGH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE UPCOMING JAPAN-U.S.S.R. FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS AND OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF ENFORCEMENT OF A SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE, LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE HAS BEEN IN THE REPORTS TO INDICATE WHAT ACTION THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE IN MANAGING THIS ZONE. DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ON PLANS OF THE USSR CONCERNING THEIR 200-MILE ZONE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL THE VISIT OF AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER SUZUKI IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON WHETHER GOJ WILL INTERCEDE WITH USSR ON QUESTION OF ROK ACCESS TO KAMCHATKA WATERS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 15, SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV INFORMED GOJ AMBASSADOR TO USSR, SHIGEMITSU, OF
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THE SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS CONTINUED JAPANESE FISHERY ACTIVITIES IN THE NW PACIFIC OCEAN. KENKICHI NAKABE, PRESIDENT OF TAIYO, WAS SCHEDULED TO GO TO MOSCOW EARLY IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIED JANUARY 14. HIS SON TOJIRO NAKABE, RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF TAIYO, MET WITH ISKOV IN MOSCOW FEBRUARY 7 AND RETURNED TO

TOKYO FEBRUARY 11. PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN TAIYO AND USSR AND NOT ON UPCOMING FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. FEBRUARY 7 MATSUURA OF JFA DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW AND ON FEBRUARY 8 HE AND AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU MET WITH ISHKOV. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE LATTER SUGGESTED A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN MOSCOW BEFORE THIS YEAR'S JAPAN-USSR COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 15. ON FEBRUARY 12, AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER SUZUKI DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION FROM ISHKOV AND WILL DEPART TOKYO LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY MARCH. THE FEBRUARY 16 ASAHI EVENING NEWS CARRIES A SHORT ARTICLE INDICATING THAT ISHKOV MAY VISIT JAPAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF MARCH FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. MATSUURA RETURNS TO JAPAN LATER THIS WEEK. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BECOME AVAILABLE THEN.

2. THE CONVENTION ON FISHERIES BETWEEN THE GOJ AND USSR CAME INTO EFFECT 12 DECEMBER 1956. SPECIES THAT COME UNDER DISCUSSIONS IN COMMISSION MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVENTION ARE SALMON, HERRING, FLOUNDERS AND SHRIMP. CRAB AND SNAIL NEGOTIATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT UNDER AGREEMENTS THAT WERE REACHED BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN 1969 AND 1972. DETAILED AGENDA FOR MARCH 15 COMMISSION MEETING AND CRAB AND SNAIL MEETING APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED. A MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER POLLOCK AND OTHER SPECIES CAN BE DISCUSSED UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENTS OR WHETHER THESE WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE USSR PLANS FOR MANAGING THEIR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED 200-MILE

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ZONE IF THIS BECOMES AN AGENDA ITEM.

3. THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, MR. TAKAHASHI, HAS INFORMED THE REGFISHATT THAT JAPAN EXPECTS DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION NEXT MONTH AND THAT THE REASON JAPAN HELD TO A STRONG POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. TO THE LAST WAS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THEIR UPCOMING USSR NEGOTIATIONS. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT HE FELT SOUTH KOREA WOULD HAVE AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM THAN IN MAINTAINING A POLLOCK FISHERY OFF KAMCHATKA. MR. OHKUCHI VICE PRES. NIPPON SUISAN ALSO INDICATED TO FISHATT WITHIN THE LAST WEEK THAT HE EXPECTS DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS IN MARCH.

4. A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED BY TAIYO CO. AND USSR IN MOSCOW LAST WEEK IS COMING UNDER FIRE FROM JAPANESE FISHERMEN. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THIS

AGREEMENT CALLS FOR EXPORT OF A 10 BILLION YEN FISH
PROCESSING FACILITY TO BE PAID FOR IN FISH. JAPANESE
COASTAL FISHERMEN ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED SINCE THIS
ARRANGEMENT MIGHT MEAN LOSS OF JOBS AND MIGHT WEAKEN THE
JAPANESE POSITION IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. MR.
NAKABE HAS INFORMED THE PRESS THAT HIS FINAL DECISION
WILL BE DELAYED DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF THE UPCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS.
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